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CAREX TENUIFLORA **THIN-FLOWERED SEDGE**

Thin-flowered Sedge is a grass-like perennial that grows in loose clumps with slender stems, 20-60 cm high, that arise from creeping rhizomes. The leaves are ca. 1 mm wide. Flowers are borne in 2-4 small spikes that are grouped together in a cluster at the top of the stem. A few male flowers are at the base of each spike. The pale green, narrowly elliptic perigynia are ca. 3 mm long and nearly beakless. The whitish, papery scales have a green center and are as long as the perigynia that they subtend. Each perigynia has 2 stigmas and an achene that is lens-shaped. Fruit mature in July-August.

CAREX TENUIFLORA could be confused with two species more characteristic of springs and peatland; *C. INTERIOR* and *C. CANESCENS*. They also differ in that *C. INTERIOR* has lance-shaped perigynia, and both have scales that are only half the length of the perigynia. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.